

facilities of such type under the medicare or medicaid programs. Any funds so reimbursed which are in excess of the amount necessary to achieve or maintain such conditions shall be used—

“(A) solely for improving the health resources deficiency level of the Indian tribe; and

“(B) in accordance with the regulations of the Service applicable to funds provided by the Service under any contract entered into under the Indian Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 450f et seq.).

“(2) AUDITS.—The amounts paid to the hospitals and clinics participating in the program established under this section shall be subject to all auditing requirements applicable to programs administered directly by the Service and to facilities participating in the medicare and medicaid programs.

“(3) SECRETARIAL OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary shall monitor the performance of hospitals and clinics participating in the program established under this section, and shall require such hospitals and clinics to submit reports on the program to the Secretary on an annual basis.

“(4) NO PAYMENTS FROM SPECIAL FUNDS.—Notwithstanding section 1880(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395qq(c)) or section 402(a), no payment may be made out of the special funds described in such sections for the benefit of any hospital or clinic during the period that the hospital or clinic participates in the program established under this section.

“(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION.—

“(1) APPLICATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)(B), in order to be eligible for participation in the program established under this section, an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or Alaska Native health organization shall submit an application to the Secretary that establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary that—

“(A) the Indian tribe, tribal organization, or Alaska Native health organization contracts or compacts for the operation of a facility of the Service;

“(B) the facility is eligible to participate in the medicare or medicaid programs under section 1880 or 1911 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395qq; 1396j);

“(C) the facility meets the requirements that apply to programs operated directly by the Service; and

“(D) the facility—

“(i) is accredited by an accrediting body as eligible for reimbursement under the medicare or medicaid programs; or

“(ii) has submitted a plan, which has been approved by the Secretary, for achieving such accreditation.

“(2) APPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall review and approve a qualified application not later than 90 days after the date the application is submitted to the Secretary unless the Secretary determines that any of the criteria set forth in paragraph (1) are not met.

“(B) GRANDFATHER OF DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.—Any participant in the demonstration program authorized under this section as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Alaska Native and American Indian Direct Reimbursement Act of 1999 shall be deemed approved for participation in the program established under this section and shall not be required to submit an application in order to participate in the program.

“(C) DURATION.—An approval by the Secretary of a qualified application under subparagraph (A), or a deemed approval of a demonstration program under subparagraph (B), shall continue in effect as long as the approved applicant or the deemed approved demonstra-

tion program meets the requirements of this section.

“(d) EXAMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Service, and with the assistance of the Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, shall examine on an ongoing basis and implement—

“(A) any administrative changes that may be necessary to facilitate direct billing and reimbursement under the program established under this section, including any agreements with States that may be necessary to provide for direct billing under the medicaid program; and

“(B) any changes that may be necessary to enable participants in the program established under this section to provide to the Service medical records information on patients served under the program that is consistent with the medical records information system of the Service.

“(2) ACCOUNTING INFORMATION.—The accounting information that a participant in the program established under this section shall be required to report shall be the same as the information required to be reported by participants in the demonstration program authorized under this section as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Alaska Native and American Indian Direct Reimbursement Act of 1999. The Secretary may from time to time, after consultation with the program participants, change the accounting information submission requirements.

“(e) WITHDRAWAL FROM PROGRAM.—A participant in the program established under this section may withdraw from participation in the same manner and under the same conditions that a tribe or tribal organization may retrocede a contracted program to the Secretary under authority of the Indian Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.). All cost accounting and billing authority under the program established under this section shall be returned to the Secretary upon the Secretary's acceptance of the withdrawal of participation in this program.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1880 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395qq) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) For provisions relating to the authority of certain Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Alaska Native health organizations to elect to directly bill for, and receive payment for, health care services provided by a hospital or clinic of such tribes or organizations and for which payment may be made under this title, see section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1645).”.

(2) Section 1911 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396j) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) For provisions relating to the authority of certain Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Alaska Native health organizations to elect to directly bill for, and receive payment for, health care services provided by a hospital or clinic of such tribes or organizations and for which payment may be made under this title, see section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1645).”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2000.

SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective November 9, 1998, section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1645(e)) is reenacted as in effect on that date.

(b) REPORTS.—Effective November 10, 1998, section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act is amended by striking subsection (e).

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee substitute amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 406), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1999

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 16. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of the transportation appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will convene at 9:30 in the morning and immediately begin consideration of the transportation appropriations bill. By a previous consent agreement, at 10 a.m. the Senate will begin debate on the Treasury-Postal appropriations conference report, with a vote to take place at approximately 10:10 a.m. Also, the Senate is expected to complete action and vote on passage of the transportation appropriations bill during Thursday's session. The Senate may also consider further conference reports and any executive items on the Calendar.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:24 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 16, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.